(v) Provision of telephones in all villages by March 2002 with participation of private sector.

(vi) Provision of STD facility in all telephone exchanges of Telecom Network.

Objection by Ministry of Finance to free telephone connections

1751. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 180 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th July, 2000 and state whether the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance has raised any objections for the same; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): Sir, Ministry of Finance had raised certain issues relating to change of service conditions etc. and desired consultation before any decision is taken. This process has been duly gone through. However, no formal orders have been issued so far in view of stay granted by Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

Adoption of Norms by TRAI for fixed services providers

1752. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Telecom Regulatory Authority is presently examining the licencing norms to be adopted for fixed services providers;

(b) if so, by when a final recommendation will be made; and

(c) what are the areas of issue that are being covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Final recommendations are likely to be made by end of August, 2000.

(c) Issues being covered are:

(i) Number of private service providers in a Circle besides Department of Telecommunication Operations.

(ii) Selection criteria for additional licenses in circles, (iii)

Entry Fee in respect of additional licenses in circles, (iv)

Percentage of Revenue Share as annual License fee.

Commemorative Stamp on Giani Gurmukh Singh Musfir

1753. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of eminent personalities commemorating whom pastage stamps were issued during 1999-2000.

(b) whether it is a fact that Musafir Memorial Trust approached the Ministry of Communications for release of a stamp on the tricentenary of Giani Gurmukh Singh Musafir, the noted freedom fighter, parliamentarian and eminent Punjabi writer; and

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Proposals regarding issue of commemorative postage are examined by the Philatelic Advisory Committee, constituted by the Department of Posts, in the light of existing guidelines to ensure philatelic relevance of the stamp when issued. The list of commemorative postage stamps issued by the Department of Posts to pay homage to eminent personalities during 1999-2000 is given in the Statement *(See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal law considered by the Philatelic Advisory Committee at its meeting dated 3.6.2000 and the Committee approved the issue of stamp on the personality during the year 2001.

Statement

List of personalities on whom commemorative stamps were issued during 1999-2000

1. Gulzarilal Nanda
2. Jijabai
3. RS. Kumaraswamy Raja